



## **National Commission on the Future of the Army**

2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000  
Arlington, VA 22202

**SUBJECT:** National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA) Minutes from Engagement – 28 MAY 15, Engagement with Soldiers from 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde/ 25<sup>th</sup> ID

**Date:** 28 May 2015

**Time:** 1000 - 1200

**Location:** Schofield Barracks, Post Conference Room, Oahu, HI

**Format:** Single Commissioner and NCFA Staff interaction with Soldiers

**Attendees:**

Commissioner Ray Chandler

Ms Cherie Emerson – NCFA Staff

Mr. Johnny Thomas – NCFA Staff

LTC Greg Hartvigsen – NCFA Staff

Mr. Mark von Heeringen – Alternate Designated Federal Officer

26 Officers and NCOs from 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde/ 25<sup>th</sup> ID

**Documents Submitted to Commission:** None at this meeting

**Meeting Summary**

Commissioner Chandler and NCFA Staff met with 26 Officers and NCOs with the intent of informing them of the purpose of the National Commission on the Future of the Army and gleaned from them any insights they might have on what the future Army should look like. Commissioner Chandler asked the Soldiers for their thoughts on Reserve Component readiness based on their experiences working with RC units on deployments and exercises. He also asked if any of the Soldiers knew about the Aviation Restructuring Initiative (ARI), whether anyone thought Army should change pre-deployment certification standards, and if the Army should look at changing authorities to allow for more integration of AC and RC.

An aggregated summary of the meeting engagement follows:

Soldiers mentioned mixed experiences on deployments and exercises with respect to operating with Reserve forces, but several indicated their experience with Guam ARNG was very positive during a recent Pacific Pathways Exercise. Some Soldiers expressed an opinion that perhaps typical RC training of one day per month and one weekend per year was a little lean to expect quick integration.

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When asked about ARI, an Aviator opined that it appeared to make sense and 25<sup>th</sup> ID was not likely to see AH-64s for several more years absent ARI. No others offered any input.

Discussion then turned to pre-deployment certification and opportunities to integrate AC and RC Soldiers. Some of the main themes expressed by the group in this area included tailoring pre-deployment certification specifically to the follow-on mission and eliminating anything that is unnecessary, and ensuring AC to RC transitions capture the best NCOs possible, who also have longevity upon arriving to the RC unit. There was also a general sense that greater consideration to regional alignments of AC and RC organizations and routinely leveraging those against the most suitable missions for their level of training would be helpful.

A senior NCO said it is key to understand what an RC unit has trained on when AC and RC serve together, so that each can be utilized in the roles appropriate to the training received. Another added that the Army should seek to more routinely deploy RC forces on some of the more standard or common recurring exercises and deployments and point their training towards the applicable mission sets. Nearly all in the group agreed that Army would benefit from increased opportunities for AC and RC to operate together.

The meeting closed with Commissioner Chandler thanking the Soldiers for offering their opinions and personal experiences and he offered that more information about the Commission's activities, along with the ability to provide input, could be found at [www.ncfa.ncr.gov](http://www.ncfa.ncr.gov).